Zune Books

by esotericguy on March 25, 2007

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Intro: Zune Books

How to view text documents, such as books, on your zune.

Image Notes
1. Screen looks green for some reason. When you actually have it on there, it's a nicely contrasted black text on a white background.

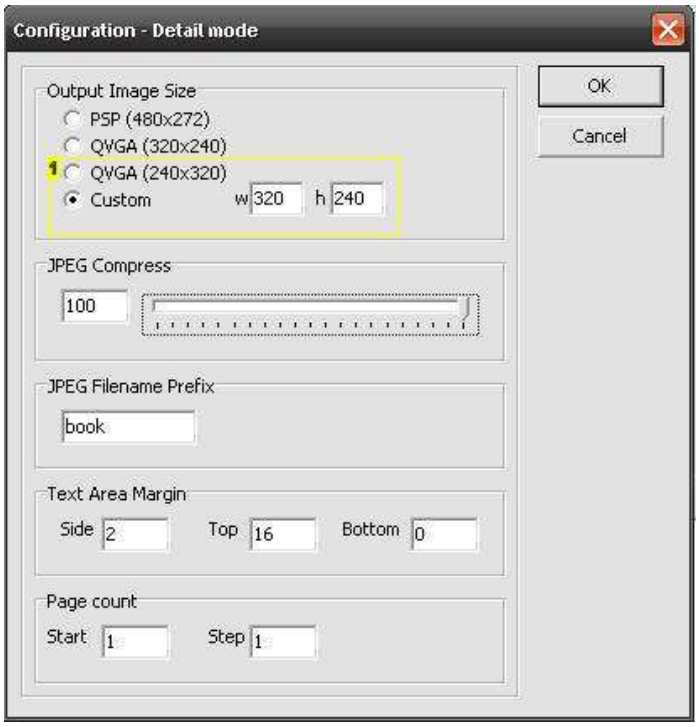

Image Notes
1. This is what you want the settings to be.

Step 1: The Problem.

I had a dilemma, I wanted to listen to music on my Zune whilst reading a book. I used to do this my PSP. (I know, both considered "rejects") So I came up with this solution and I decided to share it.

Step 2: The Program.

You're going to want to download this program: jpegbook

It's off a japanese/chinese site, but the program itself is in English.

Step 3: The Settings.

Once you've downloaded and extracted the program, run it.
Hit ctrl+O load your document.
Make sure to then select an output folder, it has to already exist since the program wont create it for you.
You'll want click on "Edit" then "Full con fig". In the "Output Image Size", select Custom and set the width/hight to 320 and 240 like so...

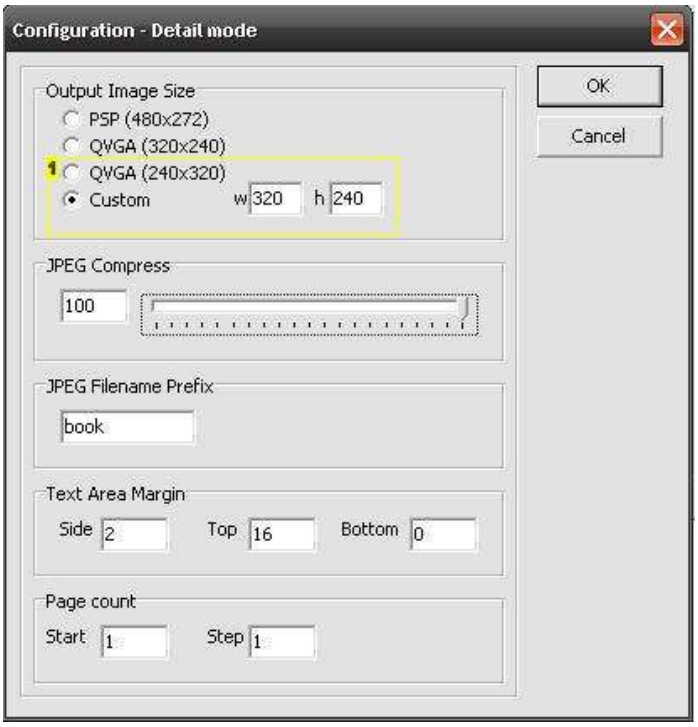

Image Notes
1. This is what you want the settings to be.

Step 4: The Solution.

Now you take that folder add it the Zune MediaPlayer, or whatever it's called.
sync it, and you're ready to go. Before you start reading, go to settings. In pictures make sure the "Transitions" is set to 30 seconds, in case the slideshow gets turned on. And that the backlight auto-off is set to a high number.

Image Notes
1. Screen looks green for some reason. When you actually have it on there, it's a nicely contrasted black text on a white background.

Related Instructables

How to Put Your Instructables E-Books On Your iPad by frenzy

Blue Velvet cover for you e-book reader by mikolynn

Converting EPub Formatted Books to Use on the Kindle by Tool Using

Self-publishing An iPhone App ebook by Noble Smith

Add Games To Your Zune (Revised for 3.0) by aDimWit

Self-Publishing for the Kindle by egbertfitzwilly

Comments

50 comments Add Comment view all 62 comments

evy-wevy says: Mar 25, 2007. 8:16 PM REPLY
but nobody likes the zune! :D

mrlunna13 says: Mar 8, 2011. 7:26 PM REPLY
That comment even thought it is old. is as ignorant then as it is now. Have you asked everybody in the world? Or just your insignificant number of friends?

- creative name - says: Dec 19, 2007. 12:48 PM REPLY
everybody who has had/tried a zune loves it

miniman980 says: Sep 21, 2008. 2:56 PM REPLY
i love it!

Jakecrash says: Dec 6, 2007. 8:01 PM REPLY
Hell, i Love my zune. And i have a better program, Go to www.zuneboards.com and search for zbooker in the forum's hacks and mods section.

2Asquared says: Mar 26, 2007. 4:20 PM REPLY
Half of you who replied saying the Zune sucks haven't even tried one out before. True, it's a different interface to get used to (most people are used to the ipod interface because that's all they have ever used before, and most people like to stick to what they know), the wireless feature may be somewhat limited, and it is a little bit bigger than the ipod. But really, it isn't all that different. It holds as many songs as a 30 gig ipod and cost the same amount. It plays videos and pictures (I've already ripped and converted some DVDs of mine to play on it and the quality is great, the bigger screen makes it easier to watch too) and you can apply custom backgrounds using pictures you put on it. It has a radio tuner as well, which I've used on a number of occasions, ipods don't even offer that. And finally, I don't understand why everyone is ripping on the wireless feature, some people may like it, and if you don't, just turn it off (you can by the way, its just in the settings. I have mine turned off, but turn it on occassionally to see if anyone near might be using a Zune, good conversation starter) Again, ipods don't even have such a feature. Oh and about the comments about the DRM encoding microsoft puts on the music you buy from their store, iTunes has a similar AAC encoding which makes the songs unplayable on any other ipod or computer, no different at all (not saying I support either company in doing this). LasVegas, I do understand what you're saying about accessory limitations, there isn't a lot of variety as far as Zunes go. However, they still have a lot of the same products (docks, speakers, etc) just not as much selection. I'm glad you actually shared your thoughts instead simply stating "Zune sucks!"

elangomatt says: Jan 1, 2009. 9:25 PM REPLY
This instructable worked just fine for me. Thanks a lot with the instructions. My only problem though is that when I am trying to read on my zune, many of the pages are out of order. A lot of times, I have to skip a page or two to get the next page and then go back to get the page after that. Any idea how to make sure all of the pages are in the correct order? My comments on the zune, I think I like the zune better actually. I love the wireless synch, though you still have to charge it of course :P It took a bit to get used to the different interface, but I think I am in the Zune camp now. I haven't really used my Ipod much since I got my Zune.

REA says: Mar 13, 2009. 12:16 PM REPLY
you would 1.) keep the book in the same group and 2.) name the pages in order. if a book has over nine (9) pages put a zero (0) in front of the single digit numbers. this will ensure that the pages will go in order.

DirendelAlcarin says: Jan 17, 2010. 2:13 PM REPLY
After page 11 the pic order get wacked have tried adding 1,0 to the name and numbering the pics like 1,2,3....10,11,12,13 etc... Help please

REA says: Jan 17, 2010. 4:59 PM REPLY
try 001, 002, 003,... 011, 012, 013, etc.
thats my motto: ""If the name doesnt work, add more zeros!""

DirendelAlcarin says: Jan 23, 2010. 5:20 PM REPLY
Added zeros to everything then to 001-009to make it 0001,0002,0003,0004.....010,011,012.....It does'nt show up right on the Zune
Could it be Zune4.0?because it shows up right on the computer for a few combinations like 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13....

REA says: Jan 23, 2010. 8:01 PM REPLY
i think it orders them by creation date. try putting them in one at a time.

DirendelAlcarin says: Jan 25, 2010. 5:37 PM **REPLY**
I appreciate the Help I did not try but I foun a perfect program for me at http://www.merlinsoftware.com/free.htm called Ebooks to Images.

veedubkid says: Jan 1, 2009. 8:55 AM **REPLY**
I had a 3rd gen Ipod until I bought 1st gen zune, and thought the zune was better. I then went back to a 120 ipod and sold it after a couple of days to get a 120 zune. The zune rocks. The ipod is good but itunes sucks.

kjrviking says: Dec 14, 2008. 10:41 AM **REPLY**
One thing i thought i should mention about the ipod interface (plz note: this is about the older ipods, not the new ones): Apple stole that interface from creative.

LasVegas says: Mar 26, 2007. 10:31 PM **REPLY**
I wasn't harping on the Zune, just trying to explain why it's not as popular as Microsoft thought it would be. AAC is not DRM. Actually AAC is an Open-source lossless compression scheme. Apple's DRM is applied to an AAC encoded file resulting in 'm4p' file. Don't confuse this with mp4, a video format. Microsoft's DRM format is a propriatary format and is even more limited than Apple's (Apple allows you to use purchased music in up to 6 computers and unlimited iPods.). Hopefully, DRM will be a thing of the past in the near future, when the music industry realizes that it only hurts sales.

bassman194 says: Jan 28, 2010. 7:05 PM **REPLY**
AAC is not lossless at all!

Foaly7 says: Oct 3, 2009. 11:57 AM **REPLY**
Okay, but what about Creative "Zen" players?

Darken702 says: Sep 30, 2009. 1:53 PM **REPLY**
useful! i have a lot of ebooks im gonna try this on... you can also use a print driver to convert the book to jpeg...

ryaninja1 says: Mar 29, 2009. 5:21 PM **REPLY**
Super Usefull!!!! thanks for the help

Solderguy says: Aug 31, 2008. 1:56 PM **REPLY**
This worked on my 8gb Sansa View!Thanks so much!! 10/10!!

JellyWoo says: Aug 28, 2008. 2:58 PM **REPLY**
Join my new group! http://www.instructables.com/group/zune/

RichMassage says: Mar 29, 2008. 1:50 AM **REPLY**
Looks like a good hack. Problem with my Zune, I can't get it to Sync any videos Not one. I've put MP3's on no problem. I will poke around Zuneboards

Pyromaniac176018 says: Jul 27, 2008. 6:52 PM **REPLY**
i couldn't get any either so i've consoled to just use podcasts... i do'nt have anything else i want to watch

abadfart says: Jul 15, 2008. 8:47 PM **REPLY**
so is each page a different pic??

esotericguy says: Jul 16, 2008. 11:41 AM **REPLY**
It won't translate each book page into a picture, it'll just fill it up as much as it can and make another page. So a 100 page book isn't going to be 100 pictures, it'll be more.

TimDanzig says: Jun 11, 2008. 10:27 PM **REPLY**
where do you get books for it? what do you do after you download the program?

esotericguy says: Jun 12, 2008. 6:32 AM **REPLY**
You can get yourself some free ebooks at Gutenburg . or

Demm says: May 5, 2008. 6:15 AM **REPLY**

Maybe this utility can be useful for eBook creation - http://www.easysector.com/read-ebook-zune.htm

schimmi says: Mar 4, 2008. 3:17 PM **REPLY**
PSP isn't a reject but for psp, make it so that you hold it with your left hand and you read it sideways so that the next image button is by your thumb

schimmi says: Mar 3, 2008. 4:41 PM **REPLY**
use white on black and your battery will last longer

evy-wevy says: Mar 26, 2007. 7:11 PM **REPLY**
I can't remember exactly how much money it was, but microsoft announced their loss from the zune and it was somewhere in the big...big BIG.....HUGE figure numbers. All that hype for nothing. To join my apple cult, please send a self addressed stamped envelope to canada...I'll send you apple stickers and french onion soup mix.

evy-wevy says: Mar 26, 2007. 7:13 PM **REPLY**
Although, I'm sure if the zune came out b4 the iPod, everybody would shun the iPod, like they do the zune. It's a dog eat dog world.

schimmi says: Mar 3, 2008. 4:39 PM **REPLY**
i agree, but strangely enough, the first MP3 player was much like the ipod, but never caught on.

TLW1707 says: Jan 21, 2008. 1:49 PM **REPLY**
Thanks Man

oleg.shastitko says: Jan 13, 2008. 1:55 PM **REPLY**
Zune eBook Creator (RTextAsImage)

This tool allows you to "convert" text such way, that you receive suite graphic files like suite of scanned pages of book or magazine. It is often necessary when you want to read favorite book on MobilePC, which does not have ability to show text files, but only graphical i.e. Zune. This tool has many opportunities for settings output files: type of graphical file, size of file ("resolution"), pagination, margins, font, color of text, line spacing etc. Also you have ability to save favorite settings and load saved earlier.

Product url - http://www.roversoft.dp.ua/Default.aspx?ProductID=5

download url - http://roversoft.dp.ua/TextAsImage/publish.htm

Robeast says: Nov 28, 2007. 4:42 PM **REPLY**
How can I remove all of the firmware from my Zune's hard drive/ use it as just an external hard drive (besides the patch)

esotericguy says: Nov 28, 2007. 6:28 PM **REPLY**
Hmm, I don't really know of a way. I mean this is a ZuneBooks tut, not a HDD tut

kelceyo says: Oct 22, 2007. 9:26 PM **REPLY**
I have a zune, my son has an ipod. He checked mine out and got jealous. Ipod is ok, but I love my Zune! I watch parts of movies on it during my breaks at work and it's great. The only fault I found was no text reader, but hopefully this solution will fix that. Thanks esotericguy!

PriMeZ says: Jul 13, 2007. 7:38 PM **REPLY**
I love my Zune and thank you for this tutorial. I've been looking to do this for a while.

nitrous says: Jul 13, 2007. 1:00 PM **REPLY**
Hi Everyone Funny thing is that when ever I bring my Zune out, I get questions about it all the time. My only complaint was the limited battery life in video mode. With the Belkin combined powerpack/stand "TunePower", that one problem has been solved. I believe that the screen size and resolution combination are better than the iPod. I also purchased a PSP to watch movies on long flights but honestly never use it. It's a bit too big although the screen size is nicer than the Zune, size does matter (as we all know! :) Seriously, I'm very happy with my Zune. Not being able to get it in Canada seems to make it a it even more attractive, than it might have been. This is a great website and a real treat to read through. I hope personalities don't limit it or worse, kill it off! n|trous

Amadeos says: Apr 2, 2007. 8:58 PM **REPLY**
LOL, good for tests and teachers that don't care if you listen to Music! going to di it when I get a Zune! (if)LOL

HubmaN says: Apr 2, 2007. 9:42 AM **REPLY**
Come on, JPEGs? Even the iPod can do text, hyperlinks, and embedded media!

dman762000 says: Apr 1, 2007. 5:52 PM **REPLY**
look the ipood got a slow start as well, and the drm won't last long before someone comes up with a hack for it the zune has more features is better built and is just all around better than anything with an "i" in front of its name. the zune has only been out for a few months and it will pick up in popularity over time.

RagsIII says: Apr 1, 2007. 9:55 AM **REPLY**
So how do I get a book on my zune? Do I have to type the book?

esotericguy says: Apr 1, 2007. 9:59 AM **REPLY**
You could, or you can go over to Project Gutenberg and download some free books, much easier =]. Here's a link to the book that i used for this:
http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/1249
You can use anything at all, it just has to be in a text file.

esotericguy says: Mar 29, 2007. 3:06 PM **REPLY**
21 comments so far and only 1actually having anything to do with my instructable.

lennyb says: Mar 26, 2007. 4:56 AM **REPLY**
i been trying to score an ebook reader that doesnt cost a fortune .will this trick work with any other machines?

esotericguy says: Mar 29, 2007. 3:04 PM **REPLY**
As long as you resize the screen accordingly, anything that can read jpg files will work.

LasVegas says: Mar 26, 2007. 1:10 PM **REPLY**
I know that you can also read text documents on iPods. There may be other MP3 players that support this feature.

view all 62 comments